

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 11706 061333Z

51

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 EB-03 FEA-01 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00

SP-02 COME-00 DLOS-03 SCI-03 DRC-01 /066 W

----- 049683

R 061128Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8479

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11706

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SN, VS, CB, ENRG

SUBJECT: GVN/GKR DISPUTE OVER OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

REF: A) STATE 195226 (NOTAL); B) SAIGON 11637; C) PHNOM PENH 11905;

D) SINGAPORE 3624

1. AT DAILY PRESS BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 6 INFORMATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMEN WOULD NOT COMMENT ON DISPUTE, SAYING SUCCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY COULD BE PREJUDICED BY COMMENT. MILITARY BRIEFER, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SAID ARMED FORCES HAD RECEIVED NO ORDERS CONCERNING THIS MATTER BUT OTHERWISE REFUSED TO COMMENT.

2. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PURSUE THIS MATTER AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF THE GVN AND HAVE SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT A) THE RIG IS AMERICAN-OWNED AND B) IT CANNOT BE MOVED WITHIN TIME LIMIT SET BY GVN NOTE (PER REF D).

3. KHMER EMBASSY TELLS US AMBASSADOR POK SAM AN RETURNED FROM
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PHNOM PENH MORNING SEPTEMBER 6, INDICATED TO HIS STAFF THAT LON NOL DESIRED TO SETTLE THE MATTER THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BUT HAD NOT

YET DECIDED ON ANY SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION, AND THEN FLEW OFF TO FRANCE FOR A LENGTHY VACATION. KHMER EMBASSY HERE PLANS NO CONTACTS WITH MFA, AND SAYS REPLY TO GVN NOTE WILL BE DELIVERED TO GVN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH.

4. RE PARA 11 REF C ON QUESTION OF MEKONG CONVOY ESCORT, THIS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION BETWEEN US AND VIETNAMESE WITHIN CONTEXT OF NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. IT IS NOT LINKED WITH OFFSHORE OIL DISPUTE. UNDER NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE LEVEL, GVN MUST SEEK OPERATIONAL ECONOMIES. SINCE STRETCH OF MEKONG FOR WHICH RVN NAVY ESCORTS ARE USED HAS BEEN SECURE FOR CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME, IT APPEARS TO BE REASONABLE AREA WHERE ECONOMY COULD BE EFFECTED. WE HAVE EMPHASIZED TO VIETNAMESE THAT RVN NAVY PARTICIPATION IN TASK OF ASSEMBLING CONVOY AT VUNG TAU AND ESCORT FROM TAN CHAU TO TURNOVER POINT IS NECESSARY. VIETNAMESE HAVE NOT MADE FINAL DECISION ABOUT CONVOY ESCORT AND MAY NOT DO SO FOR SOME TIME TO COME.
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Message Attributes

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